THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, February 21, 1803.

A PHÆNOMENON *peculiar to the Climate of* EGYPT.

[From Denon's Travels in Egypt.]

I Had often heard ſpeak of the kamſin, which may be termed the hurricane of Egypt, and the deſert: it is equally terrible by the frightful ſpectacle which it exhibits when preſent, and by the conſequences which follow its ravages.

We had already paſſed with ſecurity one half of the ſeaſon in which it appears, when, in the evening of the 18th of May, I found myſelf entirely overcome with a ſuffocating heat; it ſeemed as if the fluctuation of the air was ſuddenly ſuſpended. I went out to bathe, in order to overcome ſo painful a ſenſation, when I was ſtruck on my arrival at the bank of the Nile, with a new appearence of nature around me; this was a light and colours which I had not yet ſeen, the ſun without being concealed, had loſt its rays; it had even leſs luſtre to the eye than the moon, and gave a pale light without ſhade; the water no longer reflected its rays, but appeared in agitation; every thing had changed its general aſpect; it was now the flat ſhere that ſeemed luminous, and the air dull and opaque; the yellow horizon ſhewed the trees on its ſurface of a dirty blue; flocks of birds were flying off before the cloud; the frighted animals ran looſe in the country, followed by the ſhouting inhabitants, who vainly attempted to collect them together again; the wind which had raiſed this immenſe maſs of vapour, and was urging it forward, had not yet reached us; we thought that by plunging our bodies in the water, which was then calm, we could prevent the baneful effects of this maſs of duſt, which was advancing from the ſouth-weſt; but we had hardly entered the river when it began to ſwell all at once, as if it would overflow its channel: the waves paſſed over our heads, and we felt the bottom heave up

under our feet; our cloaths were conveyed away along with the ſhore itſelf, which ſeemed to be carried off by the whirlwind which had now reached us; we were compelled to leave the water, and our wet and naked bodies, being beat upon by a ſtorm of ſand, were ſoon encruſted by a black mud, which prevented us from dreſſing ourſelves; enlightened only by a red and gloomy ſun, with our eyes ſmarting, our noſes ſtuffed up, and our throats clogged with duſt, ſo that we could hardly breathe; we loſt each other, and our way home, and arrived at our lodging at laſt one by one, groping our way, and guided only by the walls which marked our track.

We could now eaſily conceive the ſituation of thoſe who are ſurpriſed with ſuch a phænomenon of nature when croſſing and expoſed to the naked deſerts: and we were ſo accuſtomed to the ſerene ſky of Egypt, that we could hardly bear with any patience ſuch a ſudden tranſition.

The next day, the ſame maſs of duſt, attended with ſimilar appearances travelled along the deſert of Lybia; it followed the chain of the mountains, and when we flattered ouſelves that we were entirely rid of this peſtilence, the weſt wind brought it back, and once more overwhelmed us with this ſcorching torrent: the flaſhes of lightning appeared to pierce with difficulty through this denſe vapour: all the elements ſeemed to be ſtill in diſorder: the rain was mixed with whirlwinds of fire, wind, and duſt, and in this time of confuſion the trees and all the other productions of nature ſeemed to be again plunged in the horrors of chaos.

Deſcription of the My-Attic, or Mountain Ram.

IN the fall of 1800, I was on an excurſion on horſeback, through the plains that are ſituated between the Saſcatchevan and Miſſouri rivers, along the rocky mountains, accompanied by Mr. Thomſon, a gentleman in the N. W. Company's employ, five Canadians, and an Indian guide.—Returning back to the north, we followed the courſe of the Bow river, into the heart of the mountains, with a view of examining them—and on the 30th November, at noon, we halted at the foot of the firſt ridge to graze our horſes, and aſcertain our latitude. At a little diſtance a-head, appeared a herd of ſmall animals, which we took to be a ſpecies of the deer, in that country very numerous. While Mr. Thomſon was taking his meridian altitude, I went forward with the Indian to have a ſhot, and on a nearer approach, was very much ſurpriſed to find (inſtead of deer,) a herd of about twenty animals, that were utterly unknown to me; pleaſed with this diſcovery, I advanced very cautiouſly, keeping myſelf concealed from their view, to the diſtance of about ſixty

yards;

yards; here I halted, and was examining them with all the curiosity natural for a man to feel, on seeing any unusual appearance, when the Indian, impatient at my delay, and fearful of discovery, fired his gun, and killed a female on the spot; the herd, alarmed by the report of the gun, took to flight, and made for the rocks. Angry at the Indian's impatience, I pursued them with eagerness; he followed; and in the course of the afternoon, we killed four more, two of which were young one's. I had the satisfaction to shoot a large male, whose motions appeared to guide the flight of the rest; his superior size, and enormous horns, made him the particular object of my pursuit, and I have preserved his skin, with a view of presenting it to the Royal Society of London.

During the winter, I had frequent opportunities of hunting this tribe, which has enabled me to make a few observations on it, that may be of advantage to naturalists, in ascertaining the genus, or species of the animal. The dimensions of the above male, taken on the spot, where he was killed, namely, longitude 115. 30 west, and latitude 50. north, are as follows: viz. length from the nose to the root of the tail, 5 feet: length of the tail, 4 inches; circumference round the body, 4 1-2 feet; he stands 3 3-4 feet high; length of the horn 3 1-2 feet; and girth at the head 1 1-4 feet. The horn is of the circular kind, proceeding in a triangle from the head like that of the ram; in short, this animal appears to be a compound of the deer and the sheep, having the body and hair of the former, with the head and horns of the latter. The Crees, or Knistianeaux, distinguish this animal by the name of my-attic, or the ugly rein deer. The slave nations comprehending Blood Indians, Piccans, and Black-feet Indians, call it ema-ki-ca-now, which also means a species of the deer; but the Canadians who accompanied me, at first sight, named it *le belier des montagnes* (the mountain ram). It is only to be met with in the rocky mountains, and it generally frequents the highest regions, which produce any vegetation, though sometimes it descends to feed to the bottom of the vallies, from whence on the least alarm, it returns to the most inaccessible precipices, where the hunter can seldom follow it.

His appearance, though rather clumsy, is expressive of active strength; and the nimbleness of his motion is surprizing; he bounds from one rock to another, with as much facility as the goat, and makes his way through places quite impracticable to any other animal, in that country, without wings. I know no animal which encourages pursuit so much as this; in his flight he frequently turns back and stares at the hunter with a kind of stupid curiosity, which is often fatal to him. This ought perhaps to be ascribed to his ignorance of man; the mountains being so horribly desolate, that they are but little frequented,

except it be by ſome ſtraggling war parties of the natives. The mountain ram, or ſheep, though not numerous, are to be met with in conſiderable numbers, in ſome parts of the mountains, from latitude 54 ſouthward. I have on ſeveral occaſions, ſeen herds of 20 or 30, but generally not more than 2 or 3 of them together; frequently I have been entertained with a view of one of them, looking over the brink of a precipice, ſeveral hundred yards above my head, ſcarcely appearing bigger than a crow, and bidding defiance to all approach. Theſe frightful ſituations are quite natural to them; they run up declivities of hard ſnow or rough ice, with facility; purſuing them in theſe ſituations, I have been obliged to cut ſteps with my knife, where they paſſed without difficulty. Sometimes you think their progreſs is ſtopped by a chaſm, or projecting rock, but if you attempt too near an approach, at one bound they are out of your reach.

The female does not differ materially from the male, except that her ſize is much leſs, and ſhe has only a ſmall black ſtraight horn, like that of the goat; the colour and texture of the hair, are the ſame in both, and they are all diſtinguiſhed by the white rump and dark tail. In other reſpects, the female greatly reſembles the ſheep, in her general figure, and particularly in the timid, good-natured caſt of the countenance. In winter they frequent the ſouthern declivities of the mountains, to enjoy the ſun-ſhine; the lower regions and the valleys, at that ſeaſon, being covered with a depth of ſnow. The fleſh of the female, and of the young male, is a great delicacy; for my own part, I think much more delicate than any other kind of veniſon; and the Indians who live entirely on animal food, and muſt be epicures in the choice of fleſh, agree, that the fleſh of the my-attic is the ſweeteſt in the foreſt.

Narrative of the brave Conduct of Admiral Roddam.

IN the year 1755, Captain Roddam (now Admiral Roddam) was appointed to the Greenwich, a 50 gun ſhip, ſailed to the Weſt Indies, and was upon the Jamaica ſtation till 1757.

At this period, being on a cruize off Hiſpaniola, on the 16th of March, early in the morning, plying off Cape Cabroon, the Greenwich fell in with four French line of battle ſhips, two frigates and a ſtoreſhip, which the officers and crew of the Greenwich all fully ſuppoſed and aſſerted were merchantmen convoyed by two frigates; but Captain Roddam ſaw otherwiſe, and, though late, convinced his ſhip's company of their miſtake, as they proved to be the Tonnant, of 84 guns, commanded by Admiral Boſromont; the Defauncene, of 74, Captain Blonal; the

Diadem,

Diadem, 74, Captain Roſele; l'Eveille, of 64, Captain Merville; Inflexible, of 64, and the Savage and Le Bronne frigates, with a twenty-gun ſtoreſhip. This ſquadron being to windward ſent one of the frigates to reconnoitre, which Captain Roddam perceiving, and finding there could be no chance to eſcape, uſed every manœuvre to draw her toward the Greenwich. This ſhip being painted in the manner of the French, he hoped to decoy the frigate, for which he had prepared men to board, with an intention of ſending her immediately to Admiral Townſhend at Jamaica, with intelligence of the ſituation and number of the enemy; but the French frigate ſoon diſcovering the Greenwich to be a two-decked ſhip, made great exertion to ſhelter herſelf amidſt the French ſquadron. The Diadem firſt began firing at nine o'clock, and from that hour till nine at night the Greenwich was inceſſantly attacked by one or other of the fleet. Captain Roddam again prepared to board the l'Eveille a 64, being the beſt ſailing ſhip; but ſeveral of the enemy renewing the action at the ſame time, the Greenwich became ſo much injured in her rigging, that ſhe was quite unmanageable, which compelled Captain Roddam to relinquiſh his hopes of boarding. He then called his ſhip's company together, and told them he had done all in his power to preſerve his majeſty's ſhip, but if any of them could point out the French admiral's ſhip the Tonnant, he thought the Greenwich could yet divert her an hour or two. The officers (of whom the preſent Admiral Sir James Wallace, then a lieutenant, was one) and the whole ſhip's company anſwered, "They muſt obey their captain; but they had been unceaſingly ſhot at for twelve hours, and ſupported an action they believed longer than any ſhip had ever before ſuſtained."

"At half after nine at night, it being the opinion of all the officers that Captain Roddam had done every thing that could be done for his Majeſty's ſervice, and that engaging any further could only tend to ſacrificing the men; the ſixty-four gun ſhip being then within hail, and the others cloſe aſtern of her, Captain Roddam ordered the colours to be ſtruck; the French ſhip l'Eveille preſently hailed Captain Roddam to hoiſt out a boat and go on board the ſixty-four, which he repeatedly refuſed to do; and finding his interpreter had ſaid, "every thing being cut away they could not get a "boat out," inſtead of ſaying, "Captain Roddam would not," he himſelf hailed, and enquiring if any one on board the l'Eveille ſpoke Engliſh, he was replied to by a voice he knew, a Mr. Giddy, a Daniſh officer, who had ſerved in the preceding war with Captain Norris in the Prince Frederick. Captain Roddam then told Mr. Giddy he would not go on board the French man of war in his own boat, but *muſt* be ſent for, which if not complied with, he would hoiſt the Britiſh colours immediately, and defend his ſhip as long as

ſhe

ſhe could ſwim. The French lieutenant then went on board the Greenwich, and found the men all at their quarters, with lighted matches in their hands, and the greateſt order prevailing throughout the ſhip (of which under like circumſtances there had never been a precedent), and which ſeeming to alarm and ſurprize the French Lieutenant, Captain Roddam told him, "He had there ſeen a garriſon capitulate to a "very ſuperior force, "and ready to renew the fight if the French had not done as he required." Captain Roddam was then taken on board the l'Eveille, Captain Merville, who inſtead of ſending for his own bedding, gave him that night one of the ſhip's company's cradles, with a dirty rug, which ſeemed to have been employed in the laſt office for many a poor mariner in the French ſhip; and Captain Roddam's anxious mind not having allowed him to think of dreſſing when he ſtruck (which was at that time an invariable cuſtom of the French), he was of courſe next morning extremely black and dirty, with torn ſhoes and tattered habiliments, damaged by ſplinters during the long action; and although he had ſo feelingly urged and ſolicited kind treatment for his officers and men, yet had he the painful reflection to know, that all except the lieutenants were put among the foremaſt men; his purſer's cloaths were taken off his back, and his ſteward was kept waiting on the poop, without victuals ten hours; every place was broken open and ranſacked, though the French lieutenant (who had the key of bureau, &c.) had given his word of honour to the contrary; and the whole crew of the Greenwich were without food. Captain Roddam inſiſted upon being carried to the French admiral, that he might complain of ill treatment, and was at laſt ſummoned to his preſence in the uncomfortable habiliments mentioned, and in ſuch a condition, as would have cauſed a Britiſh victor to have bluſhed at in a priſoner of the meaneſt rank. Monſieur Boſromont and his countrymen were ſparing of every thing but civil ſpeeches, which could neither clothe nor feed Britain's brave tars. Captain Roddam told the admiral that Captain Merville and his officers had acted in ſo cruel and improper a way in every reſpect, that they ought to be broke. He was aſked what had induced him to hold ſo unequal a conteſt, and to refuſe to hoiſt his boat out? He anſwered, that having very lately heard that an Engliſh man of war had been taken by a French line of battle ſhip and a frigate, and that the captain had been compelled to carry his ſword in his own boat to the frigate; but that ſuch a diſgrace could not have happened to him, for his ſword ſo required ſhould only have been delivered through the body of the perſon demanding it in a manner ſo degrading and inſulting.

Himſelf and brave ſhip's company were taken to Hiſpaniola, where the governor gave him leave to ſee his people every day, which after ſome time was refuſed by the ſentinels on duty.

His men enquired with much anxious ſolicitude if their captain was murdered, as they well knew he would not deſert them while he lived; but receiving no ſatisfactory anſwer, they ſeized the guard, armed themſelves and ſallied forth, demanding their captain, which obliged the governor to ſend for Captain Roddam and entreat him to quell his men. The captain anſwered, "That being a priſoner on parole he had no right to command, and his unfortunate ſhipmates had been ſo ill treated by the intendant (then preſent), that had his ſituation been otherwiſe than it was he would certainly have headed them." The governor again deſired him to appeaſe his men: to which he anſwered, "He believed he could ſtill exerciſe his influence, provided he was promiſed proper treatment for them, and permiſſion to himſelf to viſit them every day." On his joining his brave crew they gave three cheers, ſaying, now he was once more their leader, he knew what he could do. His reply referred them to their own knowledge of the great force then at the Cape; but the men ſtill perſiſting, he added, "He certainly had no right to command, being like them a priſoner, and had given his parole and word of honour to the governor, therefore if they did not return to their priſon he had nothing more to do with them." Upon this they immediately obeyed, and during the remainder of their ſtay were much better treated.

About two months after they were all embarked with their captain and officers for Jamaica, except one lieutenant, who died at the Cape, and one who remained there, having been wounded: ſome deſerters from other men of war were alſo put on board the cartel with them; and theſe deſerters dreading the iſſue of their trials when they ſhould arrive at Jamaica, they induced ſome of the crew who had belonged to the Greenwich to conſent to put them on ſhore at Port Morant (which is too frequently done in cartels), as the ſailors think the landing there prevents their being ſent to men of war, and conſequently gives them liberty; but Captain Roddam overhearing a lieutenant recommending them to be cautious, went upon deck, expreſſed his determination not to ſuffer them to go to any other port, and ordered them to be put on board men of war; to which they ſubmitted in quietneſs. On his arrival at Jamaica, Captain Roddam was tried by a court-martial, in Port Royal harbour. When the court preſented the ſentence to Admiral Coates, commander in chief, he immediately complimented Captain Roddam, by giving him the minutes of the court, with a requeſt that he would print them, as reflecting great credit on the ſervice, and the Britiſh flag; it was accordingly printed at Kingſton in Jamaica.

INTERESTING

INTERESTING TRIALS.

Trials of Colonel Deſpard and his Accomplices for High Treaſon.

SATURDAY, *February* 5, 1803.

THIS day Lord Ellenborough, Mr. Juſtice Le Blanc, Mr. Juſtice Chambre, and Mr. Baron Thomſon, took their ſeats on the bench. Mr. Attorney General, Mr. Solicitor General, Mr. Serjeant Shepherd, Mr. Garrow, Mr. Plomer, Mr. Common Serjeant, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Abbot, attended as Counſel for the crown. Mr. Jekyll and Mr. Howell attended on the part of the priſoner. The trials were held at the New Seſſions Houſe in Southwark.

The court being formed, the priſoners were brought in. Colonel Deſpard alone having hitherto named his counſel, the other priſoners were aſked whom they had choſen, when William Lander, for himſelf and the remaining eleven, mentioned Mr. Jekyll and Mr. Howell, who were aſſigned by the court. The indictment was then read by Mr. Knapp, and the priſoners were aſked what they would plead to it, to which they replied—Not Guilty. When aſked how they would be tried, they all replied in the uſual words, " By God and my country," except Colonel Deſpard, who did not immediately reply. When the others had anſwered Colonel Deſpard addreſſed the court upon his heſitation, which was occaſioned by his not being aware of the form, and, therefore, not fully comprehending the queſtion. He begged their lordſhips to excuſe his error.

The Attorney General ſtated to the court the impropriety of permitting the particulars of the trials to be publiſhed before they were concluded, for as the indictment and witneſſes were the ſame in all the caſes, the firſt trial might influence the minds of thoſe who were to decide upon the next. He, therefore, hoped the court would prevent any ſuch publication, previous to the concluſion of all the trials.

Lord Ellenborough fully acceded to the propriety of this recommendation.

The court then broke up.

MONDAY, *February* 7.

The judges having taken their ſeats,

Colonel Deſpard ſaid—" Before the buſineſs commences, or rather proceeds farther, I am anxious to do away ſome unfounded aſperſions, leſt they might have an injurious impreſſion on the jury: and they ariſe from certain libellous publications with reſpect to me.

The Lord Chief Juſtice anſwered—" At preſent there is no jury called, and you have no right to addreſs the court upon the

ſubject of any injurious impreſſion made upon the jury. Neither have you, at any time, a right to make the obſervations which you now appear to be launching."

The jury were now called over, and ſworn, and

The clerk then proceeded to read the indictment, which is very long, but was in ſubſtance as follows:—That the priſoner, together with certain other perſons therein named, on the 16th of November laſt, had conſpired, &c. to compaſs and imagine, &c. the death of our ſovereign lord the king.

The firſt overt act was, that the defendant, with certain other perſons, on the above day, did endeavour to ſeduce certain ſoldiers therein named, and divers other ſubjects of our lord the king, and to perſuade them with force of arms to ſeize and deſtroy the perſon of our lord the king.

The ſecond overt act was, that the priſoner and others, on the ſame day, did conſpire, conſult, combine, agree, &c. to adminiſter, certain unlawful oaths to divers perſons, tending to bind them to certain unlawful aſſociations, with intent to ſubvert the government of this realm, as by law eſtabliſhed, &c. and to deſtroy the king.

The third overt act was, that they had ſecretly endeavoured to obtain and procure, and in their cuſtody to have and keep, divers cards, &c. containing an oath, engagement, and ſo forth, for the purpoſe of binding certain perſons to ſuch unlawful aſſociations, &c. with intent to adminiſter to ſuch perſons the ſaid certain oath, engagement, &c. and that, by the ſaid oath, engagement, and ſo forth, the ſaid ſubjects ſhould become members of ſuch aſſociation, for the purpoſe of ſubverting the government of this realm, as by law eſtabliſhed, &c. and to murder the king.

The fourth overt act was, that the priſoner did adminiſter, and cauſe to be adminiſtered to Thomas Blake and others, ſuch oaths, &c. &c.

The fifth overt act was, that the priſoner, with others, did meet, conſpire, conſult, agree, &c. to lay in wait to aſſaſſinate and murder the king.

The ſixth overt act was, that the priſoner, and others, did maliciouſly, traitorouſly, &c. meet and conſult with others, for the purpoſe of attacking the bank of England and the king's tower of London; in order the more effectually to fight with, kill and deſtroy the forces and other liege ſubjects, of our lord the king, and to raiſe inſurrection and rebellion within the kingdom.

The ſeventh overt act was, that the priſoner, with others, did ſecretly, traitorouſly, &c. meet, conſult, and agree, to procure and obtain means to deſtroy the king.

The eighth overt act charged was, that the priſoner did meet and agree, that divers of them ſhould, on a certain day, when

the king ſhould go to meet the parliament, to lie in wait to attack and ſhoot the king, and that they ſhould ſurround and make themſelves maſters of the houſe of parliament, and ſhould ſeize on the bank of England and tower of London, and ſeize magazines, &c. in the neighbourhood of London; to arm themſelves, in order to fight with and kill the forces of the king, and others who ſhould be true to the king; that they ſhould ſtop and detain the mail-coaches, &c. and to prevent them from ſetting out, and, according to a ſignal of attack, to create a rebellion, &c. againſt the ſtatute, and againſt the king's peace, &c.

A ſecond count ſtated, that the priſoner, and others, &c. on the ſame day, maliciouſly, traitorouſly, &c. did conſpire, with intention to impriſon and reſtrain the perſon of the king, and did expreſsly utter and declare ſuch intention, by divers acts and deeds, ſtating the ſaid overt act and deeds as evidence of ſuch intention, &c.

A third count ſet forth, that the priſoner, together with others, did conſpire, &c. to depoſe the king, and to deprive him of the kingly name, and imperial crown and dignity, &c. of this realm, and then ſtated the ſaid overt acts as proof of ſuch intention.

On which indictment the defendant had been arraigned, and pleaded not guilty: and the charge to the jury was, to enquire whether he was guilty or not guilty of the ſaid charges, &c.

It was then agreed between the counſel for the proſecution and the priſoner, that the witneſſes ſhould be examined ſeparately, with the exception of certain honourable perſons, who were permitted to remain in court.

Mr. Abbot opened the pleadings.

Mr. Attorney General proceeded to ſtate the caſe to the jury, in the courſe of which he obſerved, it was obvious that attention was excited in proportion to the importance of the ſubject, and he could not permit himſelf to entertain a doubt, the jury were already ſufficiently acquainted with the nature of their preſent inquiry to induce them to attend to his ſtatement of the caſe, and much more to the evidence which he ſhould lay before them upon this occaſion, which was certainly of the moſt ſolemn nature, both as it regarded the gentleman at the bar, and the public at large. In neither ſenſe, no queſtion of greater importance could be preſented to a judicial examination; for it was an enquiry into the guilt or innocence of a perſon, on a charge of high treaſon. As to the priſoner at the bar, they were aware, that his honour, his fortune, every thing that was valuable to him in life, and even his life itſelf, was at ſtake. As it reſpected the intereſts of the public, nothing certainly could be more important, ſince it involved the queſtion of an attack, immediately and directly againſt the beſt intereſt of the public, in the perſon of our beloved ſovereign; and if ſuch a crime, or a conſpiracy

ſpiracy to commit it, could be proved to have exiſted, it was eſſential that the puniſhment of the law ſhould be put in force, and nothing could be more wiſe than what the law had enacted for our general defence in that reſpect: he was ready to admit, in behalf of the priſoner at the bar, that a perſon charged with a crime of this nature, ought to have the full benefit of the principles of the law, and that the enormity of the offence, inſtead of exciting prejudice againſt the priſoner at the bar, ſhould induce the jury to give him the benefit of that ſalutary indulgent principle of the law, which held every man innocent until he was proved to be guilty; and therefore the priſoner would be entitled to that which he knew he would have at their hands, as well as that of the court, namely, a full and patient hearing of the whole caſe, and that the caſe ſhould be well ſifted, and the jury well and perfectly ſatisfied of his guilt, before they ſhould pronounce him ſo. But the jury would alſo give him leave to expreſs a confident expectation, that if the charge was made out, there would not be in their minds, (becauſe there ought not to be in their minds) any heſitation to pronounce him guilty of high treaſon, more than there would be in any other caſe of a criminal nature. He then proceeded to obſerve, that with regard not only to the individuals who compoſe his majeſty's preſent government, but to government itſelf, there never was a period in which there was leſs danger than the preſent, to be apprehended from any conſpiracy whatever, or any period in which common human prudence could be more adequate to ſecure us againſt the effects of ſuch a plan of conſpiracy as that which was now about to be made the ſubject of inquiry, and therefore there could be no period in which the individuals who compoſe the government could be ſuppoſed to have leſs feelings of intereſt in an event like this, than the preſent. There was therefore nothing but the public intereſts, and thoſe of the defendant involved in this queſtion; for there was now no political party whatever concerned; no clamour to be oppoſed, nor any thing to be conſidered as actuating the proſecution, but the pureſt motive of public juſtice. It was an iſſue, which the jury would of courſe try, not only with impartiality, but with perfect calmneſs and compoſure. He therefore ſhould proceed to the ſtatement of the caſe, with as much brevity as poſſible, and in doing ſo, he would ſtate to them the nature of it. The facts he ſhould recite as ſimply and as ſhortly as poſſible, and his own obſervations ſhould be made in a way beſt calculated, according to his judgment, to bring the minds of the jury into a due conſideration of the evidence to be laid before them.

(To be continued.)

ANECDOTES *of the celebrated* CONDORCET.

AMONG the girondiſts proſecuted by Robeſpierre on the 31ſt of May, 1793, Condorcet was the very firſt on the liſt, and was obliged to ſkulk in the moſt obſcure corners, to elude the perſecutions of the furious jacobins. A lady, to whom he was known only by name, became, at the inſtance of a common friend, his generous protectreſs, concealing him in her houſe at Paris, at the moſt imminent hazard, till the latter end of April 1794; when the apprehenſion of general domiciliary viſits ſo much increaſed, and the riſk of expoſing both himſelf and his patroneſs became ſo preſſing on the mind of Condorcet, that he reſolved to quit Paris.

Without either paſſport or civic card, he contrived, under the diſguiſe of a Provencal countrywoman, with a white cap on his head, to ſteal through the barriers of Paris, and reached the plains of Mont Rouge, in the diſtrict of Bourg-la-Reine, where he hoped to have found an aſylum in the country-houſe of a gentleman with whom he had once been intimate. This friend having, unfortunately at that very time, gone to Paris, Condorcet was under the neceſſity of wandering about in the fields and woods for three ſucceſſive days and nights, not venturing to enter into any inn unprovided with a civic card.

Exhauſted by hunger, fatigue, and anguiſh, with a wound in his foot, he was ſcarcely able to drag himſelf into a deſerted quarry, where he purpoſed to await the return of his friend. At length, having advanced towards the road ſide, Condorcet ſaw him approach, was recognized, and received with open arms: but, as they both feared leſt Condorcet's frequent inquiries at his friend's houſe ſhould have raiſed ſuſpicions; and as, at any rate, it was not adviſable for them to make their entrance together in the day time, they agreed that Condorcet ſhould ſtay in the fields till duſk. It was then, however, that imprudence threw him off his guard.

The forlorn exile, after having patiently borne hunger and thirſt for three days together, without ſo much as approaching an inn, now finds himſelf incapable of waiting a few hours longer, at the end of which all his ſufferings were to ſubſide in the boſom of friendſhip. Tranſported with this happy proſpect, and foregoing all caution, which ſeemed to have become habitual to him, he entered an inn at Clamars, and called for an omelet. His attire, his dirty cap and long beard, his pale meagre countenance, and the ravenous appetite with which he devoured the victuals, could not fail to excite the curioſity and ſuſpicion of the company.

A member of the revolutionary committee, who happened to be preſent, taking it for granted that this woe-begone figure could be no other than ſome run-away from the Bicêtre, addreſſed

dreſſed and queſtioned him whence he came, whether he could produce a paſſport, &c. which inquiries, Condorcet, having loſt all ſelf-command anſwered ſo unſatisfactorily, that he was taken to the houſe of the committee as a ſuſpected perſon. Thence, having undergone a ſecond interrogatory, during which he acquitted himſelf equally ill, he was conducted to Bourg-la-Reine; and as he gave very inconſiſtent anſwers to the queſtions put to him by the municipality, it was inferred, that this unknown perſon muſt have ſome very important reaſons for wiſhing to continue undiſcovered.

Being ſent to a temporary confinement till the matter ſhould be cleared up, on the next morning he was found ſenſeleſs on the ground, without any marks of violence on his body; whence it was conjectured that he muſt have poiſoned himſelf. It was well known Condorcet had for ſome time before carried about him the moſt deadly poiſon; and, not long before his fatal exit, he owned to a friend, that he had more than twenty times been tempted to make uſe of it, but was checked by motives of affection for his wife and daughter.

It was during the concealment of ten months at Paris, that he wrote his excellent "Hiſtory of the Progreſs of Human Underſtanding."

Thus periſhed one of the moſt illuſtrious of the French literati that the preſent age had produced.

Sketch of a charitable Society lately formed at Crediton.

To the PRINTER.

SIR, *Crediton, Feb.* 10, 1803.

AS your little valuable and entertaining miſcellany ſeems founded on the beſt moral principles, and abounds with much uſeful information, you will oblige me by inſerting the following outlines of a ſociety formed and now exiſting in this town for the relief of certain poor objects. It appears agreeable to the plan of your work, and not unworthy of imitation. I ſhall therefore beg leave to ſubmit it to the attention of your numerous readers.

THE Great Author of our Being has wiſely decreed that mankind ſhall mutually depend on each other, and it muſt be highly gratifying to the feelings of good men to view the number and ſtill growing increaſe of friendly ſocieties in this kingdom, particularly among the lower orders of people. It relieves pariſhes from many and great burthens, and promotes that ſpirit of Chriſtian charity ſo ſtrictly enjoined by its great and ſacred pattern. The ſociety I am going to ſpeak of differs from thoſe I have

have already mentioned, though it tends to one and the ſame end.

The late calamitous ſtate of our country will, I believe, never be forgotten. The remembrance may be more painful to ſome than others, though every one partook more or leſs of the ſeverity of the times. Famine and diſtreſs nearly approached our doors, and every countenance was marked with dejection. We beheld the middle claſſes of people exhauſting all the fruits of their long and inceſſant labours, and the lower orders bending under the weight of miſery and want. Characters diſtinguiſhed for virtue and humanity in this neighbourhood, and I doubt not in other places, were unceaſing in their attempts to alleviate the diſtreſſes and adminiſter to the wants of the poor. (Here I can ſpeak for a certainty, that the ſpirit of true philanthropy ſtrongly manifeſted itſelf in the breaſt of a great and virtuous perſonage, whoſe name can never be mentioned but with the greateſt veneration and reſpect.) The vigilance of government was no leſs active to provide ſuccours to avert the blow that ſeemed impending and almoſt ready to fall on us. Theſe united efforts, with additional parochial aſſiſtance, together with many excellent inſtitutions, ſaved from deſtruction thouſands of our fellow creatures. But the aged, the infirm, and the afflicted, did then, and do at all times, require more of the little comforts of life than the pariſhes could or can afford in proportion to their wants, who being confined by infirmities and complaints loſe many little aſſiſtances which others, by going abroad, obtain. Thus while we are promoting honeſt induſtry and relieving the poor, particular attention ſhould be paid to this ſpecies of diſtreſs; we ſhould ſeek the abode of miſery, where frequently the mother of many children pines under ſome malignant diſeaſe, and venerable old age, on the very verge of the grave, is chilled with the inclemency of the ſeaſon which pours in through every part of her dwelling. The extent of their diſtreſs does not always reach the ears of the generous and humane, by reaſon of their obſcure confinement, and even if it did there is always a wide field for the exerciſe of their bounty.

At the diſtreſſing time I have before-mentioned, and under theſe circumſtances, a few tradeſmen in this town reſolved to make up a ſociety among themſelves for the purpoſe of affording continual relief to ſuch poor objects, judging that the beſt and ſureſt method to obtain true information, and prevent impoſitions frequently practiſed. They met accordingly at an inn-houſe, and each depoſited the ſum of eight-pence. This money was given to the treaſurer (appointed for that purpoſe), who diſtributed it, according to the beſt of his judgment, among thoſe who appeared entitled. The names of the ſubſcribers, together with the objects relieved, were entered on a book kept by the treaſurer. It was agreed that a new treaſurer ſhould be choſen

every month, and as the meetings would not be confined to a particular houſe, every ſucceeding treaſurer ſhould nominate the place he thought proper. That a trifling ſum ſhould be deducted to defray the expences of ſuch meeting, which ſhould only continue between the hours of ſeven and ten o'clock in the evening.

I hope the reader will not think this ſociety on too ſmall and inſignificant a ſcale when I tell him, that ſince that time it has increaſed to a ſurpriſing degree, and is now compoſed of the greater part of the moſt reſpectable inhabitants in this town. Several pounds are now monthly diſtributed to the poor, and the great good that has and muſt reſult from it, encourages a hope it will be followed by the well diſpoſed of other places, who may make what improvements they think proper. I will only preſume to ſay, that in the end it cannot fail to produce the moſt happy effects. In that hope,

I am, Sir,
Your obedient ſervant,

Y. Z.

Anecdotes of Caffarielli, a celebrated Italian Singer.

[From the French.]

ABOUT the year 1740, Caffarielli brought about a muſical revolution in Italy. He was of the ſchool of Bernacchi. From nature he poſſeſſed a voice of the utmoſt flexibility, and ſo ſtrong a diſpoſition to amplify, adorn, and enrich the ſimpleſt melodies, that his maſter ſoon found it neceſſary to leave him to the unreſtrained exerciſe of his powers. "Go," ſaid he to him, "haſten to make a diſplay of thy happy facility of execution. Thou wilt ſecure the graces of fortune, for, like her, thou art capricious and indocile."

He began his muſical career, and had a degree of ſucceſs ſo extraordinary, that even the moſt celebrated ſingers did not venture to enter the liſts with him. It was at this æra that compoſers began to introduce with ſuch frequency into their operas, thoſe airs which, in technical language, are ſtyled the bravura. This was neceſſary to ſatisfy the whole body of ſingers, who were deſirous of this change, to enable them to imitate Caffarielli. But though many aped his ſtile of ſinging, he had a very inconſiderable number of ſucceſsful imitators. The conſequence of this muſical revolution was, that the ſtyle of ſinging adopted by Porpora, and ſo beautifully exemplified by the immortal Fanelli, that ſtyle which, added to the charms of poetry, by embelliſhing it with muſick, at once pathetic and ſublime, was confined to the circles of enlightened amateurs, and could no longer command the admiration of the public.

Thus

Thus was Caffarielli innocently the cauſe of the introduction of that ridiculous mode of ſinging which excludes the charms of poetick excellence, and of the origin of that miſerable race of warblers who deſpiſe all attention to words in muſical compoſition, for a plain reaſon, that it is much eaſier for them to mimick the notes of a nightingale, than to reach the perfection of the art of Orpheus.

But to return to Caffarielli, whoſe ſucceſs continued to be prodigious in every part of Europe. So much was he courted, and to ſuch advantage had he turned his muſical powers, that he was in poſſeſſion of diamonds and other jewels to the amount of two millions of livres. The effect of this ſucceſs was, as might have been anticipated, to render him inſufferably vain and inſolent.

He arrived in France in the life time of the princeſs of Saxony, then dauphineſs, and a great admirer of muſical talents. He ſung ſeveral times at court, and aſſiſted in a number of concerts of ſacred muſic. Louis XV. ordered one of his gentlemen uſhers to give the ſinger a handſome preſent. The orders of the ſovereign were punctually executed, and the gentleman ſent by the hands of his ſecretary a rich box of gold, at the ſame time informing Caffarielli, that it was a preſent from the king. "What!" exclaimed Caffarielli, "is this box a preſent from the king of France! Hold, Sir (opening his cabinet), here are no leſs than thirty of the ſame kind, the leaſt valuable of which is worth more than that you now offer. If it had been ornamented with the portrait of the king, then indeed"... "Sir," ſaid the ſecretary, interrupting him, "the king of France makes a preſent of his portrait but to ambaſſadors." "What, to ambaſſadors!" rejoined Caffarielli, "well, well, let the king henceforth employ ambaſſadors as his ſingers." The anſwer was reported to the king, who laughed heartily at the ſinger's abſurd vanity, and told the ſtory to the dauphineſs. The princeſs immediately ſent for Caffarielli, and, without the ſmalleſt alluſion to his inſolent behaviour, preſented him with a rich diamond, delivering to him at the ſame time a paſſport. "It is ſigned by the king," ſaid ſhe, "which is a great mark of honour to you: but it will be requiſite for you to profit by it, for it is only in force for ten days."

Caffarielli was at Rome a ſhort time previous to his engagement at the grand theatre in that city. Cardinal Albani being anxious to be gratified with a diſplay of his talents previous to his appearance before the public, invited him to ſing at a concert, which he gave at his own palace, and to which he had invited a number of perſons of the firſt diſtinction. Caffarielli had promiſed to attend, and on the morning of the day appointed he had ſent his favourite air to the perſon who was to accompany him on the violin, to enable him to make his appear-

ance with greater advantage. In the evening, at the hour when the concert was to open, Caffarielli did not arrive. A meſſenger was diſpatched to ſummon his immediate attendance. The meſſenger found him in his night-gown, and wholly unprepared to make his appearance before the company. "Sir," ſaid the meſſenger, in a tone of ſurpriſe, "his excellency waits your arrival, and a numerous company of the moſt diſtinguiſhed perſons in Rome are in expectation of hearing your ſinging at the cardinal's palace."

At this meſſage the ſinger affected to be greatly ſurprized, and exclaimed that the appointment had wholly eſcaped his recollection. "Tell his excellency that I hope he will excuſe me at preſent, and aſſure him of my readineſs to attend him on ſome future occaſion; I am rather indiſpoſed; and beſides, the time which would be neceſſary for dreſſing, would take up almoſt the whole of the evening; in ſhort, tell him (ſaid he), I ſhall wait on him another time."

This anſwer put the cardinal, who was far from being remarkable for his patience, into a terrible rage. Four ſtout footmen, under the command of the major-domo, were inſtantly diſpatched to apprehend Caffarielli, in his hotel, and to bring him to the palace, in the exact dreſs in which he was when he ſent back his inſolent anſwer. The ſinger was at firſt rather backward in complying with this order; but at laſt, he began to reliſh the conceit of appearing in his undreſs before his excellency. He arrived at the palace, and the cardinal being told of it, gave the company a hint of the ſcheme, and they prepared themſelves for receiving great amuſement in the mortification of Caffarielli's vanity. Caffarielli in his diſhabille ſtalked through the concert-room, ſupported by the four footmen, under pretence of doing him honour; as he paſſed along, he made a number of bows and ſcrapes, by way of apology to the company; no one uttered a word, or exhibited a geſture. Still attended by his four guards, he reached the place where the harpſichord was fixed, but here was neither chair nor any other ſpecies of ſeat for the unfortunate Caffarielli.

At that inſtant the leader of the band ſtruck up his favourite air. The ſinger, impreſſed with the ſilence which reigned throughout the aſſembly and the orcheſtra, ſung the air, and ſung it too with great effect. Loud applauſes reſounded on every ſide, but in the midſt of this triumph of his ſkill, the footmen forcibly dragged him into the ante-chamber. There the major-domo preſented him with a rich ſnuff box, filled with ſequins, ſaying to him, "this is what his excellency preſents as due to your talents;" "and behold (added the footmen), what his excellency beſtows as the puniſhment of your inſolence." Twelve laſhes were inſtantly and powerfully applied to the ſhoulders of the concented ſinger. All thought his puniſhment juſt.

Anſwer, by W. Read, of Upway, to W. Mann's Anagram, inſerted January 3.

THE ASP I take to be the tree,
Tranſpos'd 'tis SAP I clearly ſee.

☞ We have received the like anſwer from J. Whittle, of Upway; William Strong, and P. Gove, of Exeter; and J. O. Zillwood, of Dorcheſter.

Anſwer, by T. Whicher, of Exeter, to Mars's Rebus, inſerted January 17.

LONG as Nile's wondrous ſtream ſhall flow,
Great NELSON's name bright fame will ſhow.

*** We have received the like anſwer from W. Strong, W. Pullen, and J. Squance, of Exeter; J. O. Zillwood, of Dorcheſter; J. Whittle, of Upway; W. Gifford, of South Petherton; and J. Harris, of King's Steington.

A REBUS, *by C. Mackey, of Plymouth.*

A Well-known metal firſt pray find;
And next a fruit you'll bring to mind;
A reptile too ſhould now appear;
Likewiſe a town in Devonſhire;
A bird of prey you next will tell;
Alſo a beaſt that's known full well.
The initials join'd, they will impart
What ought to dwell in every heart.

A REBUS, *by S. L. Margary, of Newton Abbot.*

YE bards renown'd, a fiſh expound;
A liquid; and a brute;
A meaſure long; a beaſt that's ſtrong;
A bird; ſhip; and a fruit:
The initials join, you'll ſee a line,
Clearly appear in view:
Enough I've ſaid, without more aid,
And ſo, ye bards, adieu.

A CHARADE, *by J. Channon, of Ottery.*

DEAR gents. may you enjoy my firſt,
While here on earth you reign;
If in my next you ſcan the deep,
My wiſhes ſtill remain:
My whole to man oft proves a friend,
When thunders roll, and tempeſts rend.

A CHARADE, *by J. Squance, of Exeter.*

MY firſt's a title ever due
To all the true, religious men;
My next the veteran ſtrives to view
When boiſterous winds plough up the main.
My whole will bring a place to light,
Where ancient warriors did repair
The infidels to put to flight,
And make the Chriſtian faith appear.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

ADDRESS *to* DELIA, *written in* WINTER.

COME, Delia! we'll haſte from the crowd,
Whoſe pleaſures are futile and few;
Whilſt diſguſt and ſatiety cloud
The phantom they gaily purſue.

From the city's dull ſphere let us haſte;
From vice and ſervility's ſphere;
To the grove, tho' a wintry waſte,
For pleaſure's in purity there.

Tho' the verdure of ſpring ſmiles no more,
The beauties of ſummer are fled,
And rich autumn's fructiferous ſtore
By winter's bleak reign is beſtead:

Tho' the voice of the gay feather'd choir,
The muſic of nature, be ſtill,
Which, more pleaſing than hautboy or lyre,
Was wont the gay meadows to fill:

Yet happineſs here ſpreads her feaſt,
Here every pleaſure we find,
That can ſuit a regenerate taſte,
And feed a contemplative mind.

From the ſhackles of company freed,
From faſhion, intruſion, and care,
With what pleaſant emotions we heed
The effects of tranquillity here!

How calm is the proſpect around!
Our converſe, inſtructive and ſweet,
Will beguile us, while ſcarcely a ſound
Diſturbs our romantic retreat.

Yet if ſport*, in humanity's ſpite,
At intervals break our repoſe,
This will virtuous feelings excite,
Our hearts to ſoft pity diſpoſe.

Or ſhould Eurus his fury exert,
And earth's dreary ſurface lay waſte,
How conſoling it is to advert
To the ſeaſon when all is replac'd!

Hence a theme ſtill more pleaſing reſults,
A theme e'er tranſporting and new!
The heart, full of gladneſs, exults
At the proſpect thus brought to its view.

Soon the winter of life muſt be o'er,
Its ſtorms and its terrors muſt ceaſe;
And the ſpring which ſucceeds will enſure
An immutable ſeaſon of peace.

Whilſt

* A well-known *barbarous* practice, uſually denominated *ſport*.

Whilſt we cheriſh reflections like thoſe
Our hearts ſhould pure habits aſſume:
As pure as th' immaculate ſnows
Which the ſurface of nature illume.

Falmouth, January, 1803. VALUBIENSIS.

THE SWISS PATRIOT.

WHEN ev'ning miſts Helvetia's mountains ſpread
And the tall peak with day's laſt luſtre gleam'd,
A wand'ring ſpirit rais'd his ſhadowy head—
'Twas Tell's!—his eye immortal vengeance beam'd.

With anxious ſtep he trod his native heights,
When, lo! the Gallic tumult ſwells the gale:
He hears her bands inſult Helvetia's rights,
And waſte, with hoſtile rage, the blooming vale.

What groans of agony the hero gave!
"And O! kind Heaven!" he cried, "my life reſtore!
"My mortal life, this injur'd land to ſave,
"And ſee her wither'd glories bloom once more!"

He ſunk in anguiſh o'er the painful view,
Which with ſuch pangs the patriot's ſpirit tore;
Oblivion's veil, a pitying angel drew,
And back to Heav'n the glorious ſuff'rer bore.

H. W.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A SONNET.

THE roſe, tho' a beautiful flower,
Perfuming the air with its breath,
Is only the child of an hour,
And blooms but to moulder in death.

Thus frail, ſilly man, are thy pleaſures,
Thus ſwiftly they always decay;
For life, ah! ſo dubious its meaſures,
May end ere the cloſe of the day.

O think on the ſorrows impending,
And pauſe on the verge of your fate;
With the ſinners in miſery blending
Repentance *will* come, but *too late*.

Awake from this dream, count your pleaſures as droſs,
And caſt all your ſins at the foot of the croſs.

Devonſhire. EDWIN.

EPITAPH *on a* DRUNKARD.

HALF-BURNT alive! beneath this dunghill lies
A wretch whoſe memory the ſage deſpiſe.
His brain all tumult, ragged his attire;
The ſport of boys, when wallowing in the mire.
Life did, to him, as a wild tempeſt ſeem;
And death, as ſinking to a horrid dream.
Hence learn, ye brutes, who reel in human ſhape,
To you ſuperior is the grinning ape:
For nature's wiſe impulſes they'll purſue,
Whilſt the vile fumes of liquor govern you.